

## **Weekly Police Beat for the week ending August 2, 2019**

### **WARNING: Sophisticated Scammers Pose as PEPCO Agents**

*Thieves threaten to cut your power off unless you pay 'overdue' bills*

Recently, Village residents have been targeted by a group of fraudsters who have a very convincing set-up. This scam has the potential to separate you from your money. The scammers call your home and they know your name. Your caller ID will show that PEPCO is calling; they spoof that somehow. They tell you that you have failed to pay your electric bill and that if you are skeptical, you should call PEPCO at **866-583-5999** to verify what they are telling you.

When you call the number provided, you get a very official-sounding recording that says, **“Thank you for calling PEPCO. Please listen carefully to the following as our menu options have changed...”** When you get a live person on the line, it will be a different person than the one who called your home (a man may have called you, but a woman will answer when you call back). Even though you don't recall seeing any overdue notices, you may begin to believe the scammers at this point. Resist that temptation.

Ultimately, if you continue to be hypnotized by the scammers, they will lead you to pay a false overdue bill by either:

- going to a Western Union office and depositing funds to a scammer-controlled account or
- buying a payment card and transferring the funds to them (they'll have you read the serial number to them, and your cash is instantly gone).

**DO NOT STAY ON THE LINE WITH THESE THIEVES. Hang up the phone and call the Village Police Department.**

PEPCO is aware of this scam and they've posted a warning on their website; you can read it at the below link:

<https://www.pepco.com/News/Pages/2015-09-16.aspx>